

REMARKS

Claims 1, 11 and 19-21 are canceled herein. Claims 2-10, 12, 14-16, 18, 22, 24, 26-27, 29 and 31 are amended herein. Claims 2-10, 12-18 and 22-31 remain pending in the present application. No new matter has been added as a result of the Claim amendments.

In view of the Examiner's answer and the Board decision, Claims 13, 26 and 31 were held allowable by the Board if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating that Claims 13, 26 and 31 are allowable when rewritten.

Applicant has amended the Claims to put the Claims in condition for allowance as stated by the Examiner and the Board in the present amendment.

1. The Rejection of Claims 1-31 Under 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 1-31 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lumelsky et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,516,350; hereinafter "Lumelsky") in view of Forecast et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,230,200; hereinafter "Forecast").

Claims 1, 11 and 19-21 are canceled herein. Therefore, a discussion of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is moot at this time.

As amended herein, Claims 2-10, 22 and 24 are dependent on independent Claim 26, which has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and is therefore allowable. Accordingly, Claims 2-10, 22 and 24 are also allowable as being

dependent on an allowable base claim, and hence a discussion of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is moot at this time.

As amended herein, Claims 12, 14-16, 18, 27, 29 and 31 are dependent on independent Claim 13, which has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and is therefore allowable. Accordingly, Claims 12, 14-16, 18, 27, 29 and 31 are also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim, and hence a discussion of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is moot at this time.

CONCLUSION

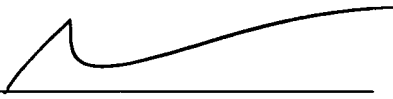
In light of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully request issuance of the allowable Claims 2-10, 12-18 and 22-31.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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